

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-07 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5356

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM CCD

SUBJ: COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN (CTB) WORKING GROUP:

TRILATERAL (US, UK, USSR) ROUND, STARTING JULY 13, 1977

1. UK TEAM (WETHERESLL AND KIPPING) MAKING SURVEY OF ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRILATERAL ROUND OF CTB WORKING GROUP SCHEDULED TO START JULY 13 IN GENEVA ASK TO MEET WITH ACDA OFFICER LATE ON JUNE 30 TO DISCUSS UK PROBLEM REGARDING MEETING FACILITIES. ACDA OFFICER ON SEABED TREATY REVCON DELEGATION SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH ISSUE BUT WOULD REPORT PROBLEM TO WASHINGTON AND SEEK REACTION.

2. UK TEAM SAID THAT THEY ANTICIPATED TRILATERAL MEETINGS WOULD ROTATE AMONG THE THREE MISSIONS IN TURN WITH APPROXIMATELY 35 PARTICIPANTS (USSR-17, US-11, UK-7). PRESENT CONFERENCE ROOM IN UK MISSION IS NOT ADEQUATE TO ACCOMMODATE THIS NUMBER, AND IS NOT REPEAT NOT AIR CONDITIONED. UK TEAM IS CONSIDERING TWO OPTIONS: (A) THE FIRST IS TO KNOCK DOWN A WALL IN UK MISSION AND EXPAND CONFERENCE ROOM TO TWICE ITS PRESENT SIZE, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT ADEQUATE
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TO HANDLE GROUP OF 35. TO DO THIS, WORK MUST BE STARTED PROMPTLY, AND THE PROBLEM OF LACK OF AIR CONDITIONING WOULD REMAIN SINCE THE CONFERENCE ROOM IS ON THE FRONT SIDE OF BUILDING AND THE OWNER WILL NOT PERMIT AIR CONDITIONING UNITS THERE BECAUSE THEY WOULD DETRACT FROM EXTERIOR APPEARANCE. UK MISSION FEARS THAT LACK OF AIR CONDITION WILL "ENSURE" UNCOMFORTABLY HOT WEATHER EACH TIME UK TURN

TO HOST ROLLS AROUND.

(B) THE SECOND OPTION IS TO RENT SPACE IN THE SWISS CONFERENCE CENTER NEXT TO THE UK MISSION. THE IDEA OF RENTING SPACE EVERY THIRD DAY WITH NO CONTROL OVER IT BETWEEN TIME RAISES POSSIBLE SECURITY QUESTIONS IN THE EYES OF THE UK TEAM AND THEY WONDERED IF THIS TYPE OF ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT ALSO BOTHER US FROM SECURITY POINT OF VIEW. IF QUESTION OF USING SWISS CONFERENCE CENTER WERE SATISFACTORY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SECURITY, UK TEAM SAID THAT ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE TO LEASE SPACE FOR LONGER PERIOD, SWEEP IT, AND KEEP IT UNDER UK CONTROL DURING ENTIRE ROUND OF TALKS.

3. INDICATING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON A STRICTLY PERSONAL BASIS, ACDA OFFICER WONDERED IF IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING MEETINGS CHAIRED BOTH BY US AND UK IN US FACILITY. UK TEAM THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO SENIOR UK OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, IF ALL ELSE FAILS IT MAY BE NECESSARY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF UK USE OF RENTED SPACE IN SWISS CONFERENCE CENTER FOR TRILATERAL MEETINGS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO US SIDE ON SECURITY GROUNDS, AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED SO THAT REMODELLING OF CONFERENCE ROOM IN UK MISSION MIGHT BE STARTED ON URGENT BASIS. IF
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USE OF SWISS CONFERENCE CENTER POSES NO PROBLEMS TO US SIDE, THIS WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE.

5. JOHN EDMONDS (FCO, HEAD OF DISARMAMENT) IS FAMILIAR WITH THIS PROBLEM AND WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR BILATERAL TALKS ON JULY 5 AND 6. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IF REMODELLING REQUIRED, WORK NEEDS TO BE STARTED BEFORE THEN. CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO MAKING OFFER TO EDMONDS OF US FACILITY FOR USE WHEN UK IN CHAIR DURING THIS TRILATERAL ROUND.SORENSEN

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